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## News Release

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### **Lucky Peak Lake levels will begin dropping early this year; recreationists need to note upcoming boat ramp closures**

**Boise, Idaho, --** Boaters and other recreationists need to be aware of the predicted lower lake levels at Lucky Peak, according to a recreation manager for the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Due to high irrigation demands during a low-water year, there is just not as much water in the river system as we usually have this time of year. The lake levels could begin dropping as early as the end of next week and continue through autumn," said Dave Brownell, who heads the Corps' Lucky Peak office.

Lucky Peak Lake is currently at full pool elevation 3,055 feet above mean sea level. When the drawdown begins the lake will drop more than a foot per day. Levels are expected to be at elevation 3,035 msl around the middle of August. The Corps' Barclay Bay boat ramp, across the dam, will not be accessible at that level, and moorage at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Spring Shores Marina will be limited. The main boat ramp at Spring Shores, located west of the marina building, will still be operational.

The Corps' Turner Gulch ramp, which is accessible even at low lake levels, will continue to be open until Sept. 15, when it will close for the season. The ramp is currently open 6 a.m. through 10 p.m. daily. Depending on lake levels, Spring Shores Marina may also be out of service around that same time, according to Brownell. The elevation on Sept. 15 is predicted to be near 2,955 msl.

"We wanted to let the recreating public know as soon as possible so they can make plans accordingly. Spring Shores and Turner Gulch Ramp will be open Labor Day, but lower lake levels will affect some of the shoreline access to the popular sun-shelters and swim recreation docks," said Brownell.

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## **Lucky Peak/2-2-2**

Projections indicate that the lake will be at minimum pool elevation 2,905 msl by mid-October.

“Visitation to the lake usually drops off after lake levels go down 10 feet or more, due to the mud and lack of shoreline access. This can create a safety concern. We want our visitors to be aware of the lower lake levels and some of the hazards that can bring. We want them to remember to wear their lifejackets when playing in, on or near the water,” said Brownell.

Recreationists can get local river flows and lake elevation levels by calling the Bureau of Reclamation’s recorded information line at (208) 334-9134. Recorded information on Spring Shores Marina is available at (208) 336-9505. The Corps’ Lucky Peak Lake Office staff is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at (208) 343-0671.

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